ABSTRACT

An optical pickup device is equipped with a first light source that emits first light, a second light source that emits second light having a wavelength different from a wavelength of the first light, and a diffraction element that deflects the first light or the second light to match optical axes of the lights. The diffraction element is a step-like diffraction element in which one of an incident face and an emitting face thereof has a step-like grating face. A step difference of the step-like grating face is set to have a measurement that generates a phase difference of one wavelength of one of the first light and the second light, and the number of steps of the step-like grating face is set to maximize a (+) first order diffraction efficiency or a (–) first order diffraction efficiency for the other light.